

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



July 30, 1997

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-46-97

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY CHILD WELFARE
SERVICES PROGRAM MANAGERS

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- ☐ State Law Change
- ☐ Federal Law or Regulation Change
- ☐ Court Order or Settlement Agreement
- ☐ Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- ☒ Initiated by CDSS

**SUBJECT: THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES' (CDSS)
CALIFORNIA SAFE AND HEALTHY FAMILIES PROGRAM: A FAMILY
SUPPORT HOME VISITING MODEL**

The purpose of this letter is to provide counties with a family support prevention model program which has been based on research and designed to provide significant positive outcomes for isolated at-risk families. A literature review of nationally recognized home visiting research studies have shown many positive outcomes for families that include the prevention and/or reduction of: child abuse and neglect, hospitalization and medical care, juvenile delinquency, welfare dependency, and subsequent pregnancies. Other outcomes include: improved child and family health and educational/vocational development, parenting skills and functioning, and school readiness.¹ Enclosed for your review is the Executive Summary of the CDSS' California Safe and Healthy Families Program: A Family Support Home Visiting Model (Cal-SAHF), which has been developed in partnership with the Center for Child Protection, Children's Hospital-San Diego.

The CDSS believes that a research-based home visiting model holds the potential to achieve significant positive family outcomes. Home visiting has been discussed as a service strategy throughout the State in a variety of different contexts. The Cal-SAHF has been developed to assist counties and communities as they design prevention programs to meet the challenges and needs of families receiving services under welfare reform, AB 908's Minor Teen Parent Program (Welfare and Institutions Code Section 16506), and other community/county initiatives.

The Cal-SAHF offers community flexibility in the implementation of the program while providing a structural base for minimum standards, training, supervision, and a system for maintaining program quality. The model's outcomes are focused on promoting child health, safety and well-being while improving overall family functioning and self-sufficiency.

The Center for Child Protection, Children's Hospital-San Diego has a long history of experience in research and service delivery for family support home visiting services. Recently the Center for Child Protection, Children's Hospital-San Diego, as part of on-going research activities, conducted an extensive review of many strong, nationally recognized conceptual home visiting models for the purpose of developing a "best practices," research and outcomes-based home visiting model. The most significant influences in the Cal-SAHF model were from: the Healthy Families America paraprofessional model, and the Home Visitation 2000 Project nurse model.

¹ See page 3 for published articles used in literature review.

The CDSS' Office of Child Abuse Prevention and the Center for Child Protection have utilized the information gathered to develop the Cal-SAHF model, which has the potential for broad application to address a wide range of problems.

This program utilizes a multi-disciplinary team approach to service delivery, which includes paraprofessional home visitors, professional social workers, child development specialists, and nurses. The model is a capitated three-year program (\$2,200 per family/per year), which has been designed to be cost efficient and cost effective. Depending on the population and the individual family's needs, this model is budgeted for services provided for one, two and up to three years.

The Executive Summary (attached) provides the overview of Cal-SAHF key elements which include:

- Program goals and outcomes
- Program components, minimum standards and service array
- Multi-disciplinary team service delivery
- Caseload and home visit intensity/frequency
- Quality Management
- Detailed capitated program costs for each service level and year

In addition to the Executive Summary, three manuals intended to help program sites implement the program model are in preparation, they include:

- The Program Administration Manual
- The Team Manual
- The Family Workbook

These manuals will be used in CDSS' Cal-SAHF Model Program training, which will be offered to interested counties later this summer/fall. For further information or to share your interest in Cal-SAHF and future training opportunities, please contact Eileen Carroll with the Office of Child Abuse Prevention at (916) 445-2771.

Sincerely,



MARJORIE KELLY

Deputy Director

Children and Family Services Division

Attachment

c: CWDA

ATTACHMENT 1

Literature Review References

Daro, Deborah, "New Dimensions in Preventing Child Abuse--Home Visitation," National Resource Center on Preventing Child Sexual Abuse News: Vol. 5, No. 4 July/Aug./Sept/Oct, 1996.

Gomby, Deanna S., Carol Larson, Eugene M. Lewit, Richard E. Behrman, "Home Visiting: Analysis and Recommendations," in The Future of Children: Home Visiting. Vol. 3, No. 3 (Winter, 1993) pp. 6-22.

Guterman, Neil, "Early Prevention of Physical Child Abuse and Neglect: Existing Evidence and Future Directions," Child Maltreatment, Vol. 2, No. 1 (February, 1997) pp. 12-34.

Krugman, Richard, "Universal Home Visiting: A Recommendation from the U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect," in The Future of Children: Home Visiting Vol. 3, No. 3 (Winter, 1993) pp. 184-191.

McCurdy, Karen. Home Visiting, monograph prepared for the National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse, (Chicago, 1995).

Olds, David and Harriet Kitzman, "Review of Research on Home Visiting for Pregnant Women and Parents of Young Children," in The Future of Children: Home Visiting. Vol. 3, No. 3 (Winter, 1993), pp. 53-92.

US Advisory Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect. Creating Caring Communities: Blue Print for an Effective Federal Policy on Child Abuse and Neglect, U.S. Government Department of Health and Human Services (Washington, D.C., 1991)

Yoshikawa, Hirokazu, "Long-Term Effects of Early Childhood Programs on Social Outcomes and Delinquency," in The Future of Children: Long Term Outcomes of Early Childhood Programs. Vol.5, No.3 (Winter, 1995), pp.51-70.

Prepublished Article:

Olds, David and John Eckenrode, et al., "Long-Term Effects on Home Visitation on Maternal Life Course, Child Abuse and Neglect, and Children's Arrests: 15-Year Follow-Up of a Randomized Trial".

This article is expected to be published in the August/September 1997 Journal of the American Medical Association. Additionally, the information contained in the article was presented before the National Governor's Association Center for Best Practices, Washington D.C., on March 5-6, 1997.